



## 2019 CUVÉE ÉQUITÉ

### NAPA VALLEY

- Release Date:** February, 2023
- Production:** 7 Barrels
- Varietal:** 83% Merlot, 13% Malbec & 4% Cabernet Sauvignon
- Vineyards:** Merlot: Coombsville AVA – Farella, Rutherford AVA - Haworth  
Malbec: Pope Valley – Calla Lily  
Cabernet Sauvignon: Rutherford AVA – Haworth
- Winemaking:** Justin and Seana Stephens, Proprietors  
Kirk Venge, Winemaker
- Cooperage:** Aged for 22 months in 100% French oak, 50% new.
- Vintage Notes:** 2019 as a vintage was full of unique and unexpected character. A cool spring and late rains well into May had us on edge as we nervously kept vigil against frost and shatter in the vineyards, fearing a repeat of the unseasonably cool 2011 vintage. Thankfully, summer arrived with its desired warmth, but with the harshest heat held at bay, allowing for a long, warm, and even ripening season. This was especially appreciated along the eastern side of the valley where the late afternoon sun lingers longest, and heat spikes are most perilous.
- Wine Notes:** In Bordeaux, the river Gironde divides the wine making region into two parts, the Left and Right Bank. The Left Bank focuses on Cabernet driven complexity and structure, while the Right Bank is built upon Merlot and produces rich, balanced and inviting wines. What does all of this have to do with winemaking in Napa? Well, nothing really as the forces that shape our valley are quite different, but the long tradition of Merlot focused wines along the Right Bank of Bordeaux did provide the inspiration for our Cuvée Équité.
- This wine is a thank you to our investors who believed in this project before the winery existed and were an integral part of its creation. It is now and forever dedicated to all those who hold equity in our dream and help to make this pursuit of ours possible.
- Tasting Notes:** Lovely, abundant huckleberry and black cherry cobbler notes fill the glass alongside hints of anise, cocoa, and graham cracker. This wine exhibits excellent balance on the palate, so the rich red and black fruit notes are woven alongside hints of nutmeg, clove, and vanilla bean, all surrounding the fine tannins for a very complete presentation.
- Aging Advice:** With the purity of fruit on display in youth, it is certainly tempting to dive right in, and we do expect to enjoy this wine early and often. That said, there is strong aging potential for this and in fact all of our 2019 vintage wines, as the ample fruit and balanced structural cues will allow for steady evolution over the next 7-10 years.